

THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

The Pueblo Chieftain 136th Year... and still on the job!

Sunday August 24, 1997

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Handmade rocking horses a hit with young and old

GAYLE PEREZ
The Pueblo Chieftain

Chieftain photo by Chris McLean

Kathy Jewell of Colorado Springs enjoys a ride on a giant rocking horse at the State Fair, with her children Thomas, 8, and Cindy, 13.

The seven multicolored horses stood idle in the morning waiting for some eager riders.

It wasn't long before five of the stallions were put into action at the Rocking K Corral at the Colorado State Fairgrounds.

The horses, all giant rocking horses, have become one of the favored attractions along the Colopalooza Concourse, just outside the Menagerie of Small Animals.

Weather

67°

Fair

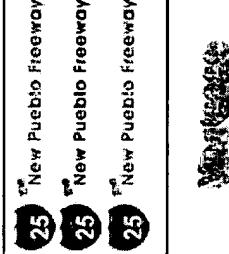
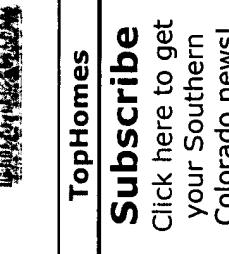
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Friday	The horses are the creation of Woodland Park resident Kat Bridenbaker, who offers them for sale but also provides rides to "anyone under 500 pounds and under 90 years of age."	
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While Ms. Bridenbaker said she has brought the horses to the Fair the past six years to generate sales, she also wants to provide a good time for kids and adults alike.

That's why she decided to offer rides on the life-sized animals for \$1.50 each. The ride includes a horse lollipop made fresh by Ms. Bridenbaker's daughter, Deanna LeBeau of Colorado Springs.

For \$3.50, people can also get a Polaroid picture taken of themselves while riding the animal.

The creatures themselves sell for \$775 for the large horses and \$375 for the smaller ones. There are also stick horses for sale at \$19 each.

"We really don't sell a whole lot here at the Fair because it is such a high-priced item, but we sell about 10 a year as a result of the Fair," she said. ``This is something that people have to go home and think about."

That's why she offers the rides for a small fee.

"They kind of sell themselves," she said.

The Rocking K Corral is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

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